

COVID-19 TALKING POINTS

(As of March 30, 2020)

OVERARCHING PRIORITIES

- DoD has three priorities for dealing with COVID-19: 1) Protecting our people; 2) Maintaining mission readiness; and 3) Supporting the whole-of-government effort.
- We ask our people to take actions to protect themselves and those around them by employing protective measures including practicing good hand washing, social distancing, and taking appropriate actions if feeling sick.

Protecting Our People

- The Secretary of Defense raised the HPCON level to Charlie at all DoD installations. DoD will take every step to ensure the wellness of our people, while also safeguarding our national mission capabilities.
- Beginning March 31, all Military Treatment Facilities and Dental Treatment Facilities will postpone most elective surgeries, invasive procedures, and dental procedures for 60 days. These actions will enhance staff safety, prolong the supply of PPE, and repurpose the staff to aide in the COVID-19 response.

Maintaining Mission Readiness

- We continue to maintain a ready, global presence.
- DoD has plans in place that ensure the nuclear triad of strategic bombers, intercontinental ballistic missiles, and submarine-launched missiles continue to be a ready and reliable deterrent.

Supporting US Government Response

- **New:** USNS Mercy received its first three patients Sunday while the USNS Comfort scheduled to arrive in New York City today. Both ships will provide a spectrum of medical care that will allow local hospitals to focus on COVID-19 patients.
- **New:** DTRA helped deliver six C-17 shipments, totaling 3 million COVID-19 test kit swabs, to support U.S. medical professionals stateside, and military members in Europe.
- **New:** Defense Logistics Agency will spend \$84.4 million to buy 8,000 ventilators, with delivery of an initial 1,400 by early May. In addition to supporting USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy with over \$2 million in medical supplies and 975,000 gallons of fuel for their transit to New York City and Los Angeles.
- **Update:** Approximately 14,830 Air and Army National Guard professionals are supporting COVID-19 response at the direction of their governors. The focus in many states is on supporting community based testing sites and creating enhanced medical capacity. Distribution of Personal Protective Equipment, medical supplies, food and water are prevalent missions.